

Abstract

A method of culturing hepatocytes for a long term, characterized in that fresh hepatocytes are maintained in a medium at 15 to 30°C for 1 to 6 days, followed by culturing under physiological conditions.

The method of the present invention enables hepatocytes to be cultured for a long term without inviting reduction in enzymatic activity or enzyme-inducing activity. Moreover, since the cells can be maintained at around room temperature for 1 to 6 days, the method is very useful for long-term transportation of hepatocytes after isolation.